REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed 4/18/2007. Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner for pointing out clarifying amendments in the Office Action of 4/18/2007 to overcome the claim objections.

Based on the Examiner suggestions presented on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action of 04/18/2007, Applicants have clarified pending claims 1-16. Applicants wish to note that no new matter has been entered via the amendments to claims 1-16. The Amended claims should overcome both the objections raised by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 5, 10-13, and 16 and the 35 USC §101 rejection put forth by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the claim objections with regards to claims 1, 5, 10-13, and 16 and the 35 USC §101 rejection with respect to claim 16.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of this response/amendment.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claims 1, 5, 10-13 and 16 are objected to because of informalities.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

US Patent 6,889,226 (O'Neil et al.), in view of US Patent 6,263,332 (Nasr et al.), and

further in view of US Publication 2002/0120690 (Hayton).

Claims 5-8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US

Publication 2003/0110150 (O'Neil et al.), in view of US Publication 2002/0120679

(Hayton et al.).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The present invention teaches a method for prefix encoding node identifiers in a logical

tree comprising steps of: choosing an initial base length with which to encode local identifiers,

assigning a value of zero as a node identifier to a root node in a logical tree, sequentially

assigning to descendants of a root node a local identifier having an even value and a length equal

to said base length chosen in said choosing step, wherein said local identifiers are assigned in

increasing value from leftmost children to rightmost children, **assigning node identifiers by**

concatenating local identifiers of all nodes along a path from a root node to a node to which

a node identifier is currently being assigned, and extending said initial base length if local

identifier encoding combinations are exhausted before all descendants are assigned local

identifiers.

The present invention also teaches an article of manufacture having computer readable

program code implementing the above-method.

The present invention also teaches a method for prefix encoding node identifiers in a logical tree comprising steps of: choosing an initial base length with which to encode local identifiers, assigning a value of zero as a node identifier to a root node in a logical tree, sequentially assigning to descendants of a root node a local identifier having an even value and a length equal to said base length chosen in said choosing step, wherein said **local identifiers are assigned said even values based on variable-length binary string encoding** and said local identifiers are assigned in increasing value from leftmost children to rightmost children, **assigning node identifiers by concatenating local identifiers of all nodes along a path from a root node to a node to which a node identifier is currently being assigned**, and extending said initial base length if local identifier encoding combinations are exhausted before all descendants are assigned local identifiers.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS AND REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

As mentioned in the remarks section, based on the Examiner suggestions presented on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action of 04/18/2007, Applicants have clarified pending claims 1-16. Applicants wish to note that no new matter has been entered via the amendments to claims 1-16. The Amended claims should overcome both the objections raised by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 5, 10-13, and 16 and the 35 USC §101 rejection put forth by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the claim objections with regards to claims 1, 5, 10-13, and 16 and the 35 USC §101 rejection with respect to claim 16.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 9, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,889,226 issued to O'Neil et al. (hereafter O'Neil), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,332 issued to Nasr et al. (hereafter Nasr), and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0120679 issued to Hayton et al. (hereafter Hayton). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), each and every element of the claims must be addressed through known prior art or be recognized as an obvious variation thereof.

Applicants contend, based on at least the arguments presented in the response of 12/18/2006, that the combination of O'Neil, Nasr, and Hayton fails to provide many of the features of Applicants' pending claims. Applicants urge the Examiner to review the arguments presented in that response.

As has been detailed in the previous response, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of Applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders

them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this response has been timely filed, no request for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

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